

JOURNAL
OF THE
ASIATIC SOCIETY.

Part I.—HISTORY, LITERATURE, &c.

No. II.—1874.

Note on a hoard of 543 Sassanian Coins in the possession of Col. H. Hyde, R. E.—By THE HONORABLE E. C. BAYLEY, C. S. I.

(With a plate.)

I enclose for the information of the Asiatic Society a tabulated analysis of a hoard of 543 Sassanian coins, which has recently been acquired by Col. Hyde, R. E., and which he has been good enough to submit to me for examination. As will be observed, it consists wholly of the coins of three kings—Khusrú I. (the celebrated Naushírwán); Hormazd IV., surnamed “Turkzádah;” and Khusrú II. Parwíz. There are 42 coins of Khusrú I., 103 of Hormazd IV., 394 of Khusrú II., besides four the legends on which are not legible, but of which two may safely be assigned to Khusrú II., and the other to one or other of the two preceding kings.

The coins of all other kings are wanting, even those of Varahrán Chobín, the usurper general who contested the succession with Khusrú II.

Whether this is accidental or not I cannot say. It possibly may be due to the calling in and recoinage of the money of his earlier predecessors by Khusrú II., whose own coinage was certainly very large.

The dates on the coins range from the 1st year of Khusrú I. to the 39th (or last) of Khusrú II., that is, from 530 or 531, A. D. to 628, A. D.

There are a few dates missing, notably the first years both of Hormazd IV. and Khusrú II.

There can, however, I think from the character of the hoard be little doubt that it was concealed immediately on the deposition of Khusrú II.

and in anticipation of the troubles which eventually followed that occurrence.

It is then clear of all Muhammadan influence, and this may be a matter of some importance in respect to the marginal marks which are found on the obverse of some of the coins of Khusrú II. The only marks to be found in this hoard are all evidently expressive of the same formula, whatever that may be, which when clearly written, appears to be س م , though this is sometimes altered into س م , س م , &c., apparently carelessly, as may be seen by the gradations in which these last two are derived from the first, which I take to be some form of the word "afzúd."

No such marks are found in any of the coins in this hoard, of earlier dates than the 11th year of Khusrú's reign. They are not found at all on the coins of some mintages, as, for example, on the mintages marked 1, 2, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, in the accompanying table. I may add, however, that on another coin, *dated* the 20th year of Khusrú II. and with the mint mark No. 8 (*which was not found in this* batch*), I have found another "countermark," viz. : س م .

Can this indicate that this separate coin was a mere reproduction of Khusrú II.'s type, struck after his death? for none of the large batch, which were clearly struck in his lifetime, have any other countermark than those I have described.

It is, however, to be said that the application of these marks seems to have been very capricious; for they do not appear, when adopted, to have been continuously used, and they sometimes are not found on the coins of mint cities which show them both on earlier and later dated coins, and similar coins *of the same mint and year* will be countermarked or plain indifferently.

As Mr. Thomas is engaged in identifying the mint cities, I have not made any attempt in this direction; and the only other remark which occurs to me is that apparently the obverses have first been struck and then the reverse, as in process of minting the symmetry of the obverse impression is very frequently destroyed.

N. B. The small figures above the dates in the accompanying table indicate the number of coins (if more than one) of the year in question; thus Khusrú I, 29² means that there are *two* coins dated in the 29th year of Khusrú I. of the same mintage.

* It was brought from Herat by Capt. Marsh.

Catalogue of Sassanian Coins, the property of Colonel Hyde, R. E., brought to India from Baghdád, and apparently constituting one find.

Mint-mark.	King.	Date in regnal years.	Total.
No. 1*	Khusrú I.	1, 3, 4, 37, 44 ² , 45, 47.	8
	Hormazd IV.	2 ² , 3, 4 ³ , 8 ³ , 9, 10 ² .	12
	Khusrú II.	4, 25, 26, 29, 31 ² , 35, 37, 38, 39.	10
			30
2	Khusrú I.	7, 29 ² , 38.	4
	Hormazd IV.	4, 11 ² , 12 ² .	5
	Khusrú II.	29, 30, (2 illegible).	4
			43
3	Khusrú II.	18, 31, (1 illegible).	3
			46
4	Khusrú II.	14, 15 ² , 17 ² , 19, 21 ² , 23, 24, 25 ³ , 26 ⁵ ,	60
		27 ⁶ , 28 ² , 29 ³ , 31 ⁷ , 34, 35 ¹ , 36 ⁵ , 37 ⁴ , 38, and 4 illegible dates.	
			106
5	Hormazd IV.	3, 4, 5, 8, 9 ² .	6
	Khusrú II.	11, 27, 29 ² , 32, 35 ³ , one illegible date.	9
			121
6	Hormazd IV.	5, 11, 12 ³ .	5
	Khusrú II.	2, 5 ² , 12, 14 ² , 28, 29, 31 ³ , 33, 34, 36, 2 illegible.	21
			147
7	Hormazd IV.	8, 9, 11.	3
	Khusrú II.	7 ² , 24 ² , 25 ² , 27, 28 ² , 29, 30 ² , 32 ³ , 37, 5 illegible dates.	21
			171
8	Hormazd IV.	4, 10.	2
	Khusrú, II.	15, 20, 27, 26, 28, 1 illegible.	6
			179
9	Khusrú I.	44, 49.	2
	Hormazd IV.	1.	1
	Khusrú II.	10 ² , 17, 19 ² , 21, 24, 28, 31 ³ , 37 ² .	13
			195
10	Khusrú I.	19, 30.	2
	Hormazd IV.	4, 7 ² , 8 ² , 9 ³ , 10 ⁵ , 11 ³ , 12 ² , one illegible.	19
	Khusrú II.	2, 19, 21 ² , 26, 39, 35, 36 ² , 38, one ille- gible.	11
			227
11	Khusrú I.	46.	1
	Hormazd IV.	8, 10 ² , 12.	4
	Khusrú II.	17, 26, 29, 34, 35 ³ , 36 ² , 37, one illegible.	11
	One doubtful.	12.	1
			244

* These numbers refer to the mintmarks of the accompanying plate.

Mint-mark.	King.	Date in regnal years.	Total.
		Brought forward,	244
No. 12	Khusrú I. Khusrú II.	45, 24 ² , 25, 26, 31, 32, 37 ² .	1 8
			— 253
13	Hormazd IV. Khusrú II.	7, 8 ² , 16. 4, 5, 6, 7 ⁴ , 8, 15 ² , 27, 28, 35, 3 illegible.	4 16
			— 273
14	Hormazd IV. Khusrú II.	7. 26 ² , 31, 32, 35.	1 5
			— 279
15	Khusrú I. Hormazd IV. Khusrú II.	5 ² , 35, 45, 46 ² . 4 ² , 9 ⁴ , 10 11. 2, 5 ² , 6, 11, 13, 14, 21, 24, 25, 27, 28, 31 ¹³ , 35 ³ , 37 ³ , 38 ² , 7 illegible dates.	6 8 40
			— 333
16	Khusrú I. Hormazd IV. Khusrú II.	3, 4. 8, 11, 12. 38.	2 3 1
			— 339
17	Khusrú II.	11, 21, 29, 31, 34 ⁴ , 35 ⁴ , 37, 38, 2 dates illegible.	16
			— 355
18	Hormazd IV. Khusrú II.	4, 11 ² . 29, 31, 37 ² , 1 illegible date.	3 5
			— 363
19	Hormazd IV. Khusrú II.	4. 24, 26, 28, 31, 32, 35.	1 6
			— 370
20	Hormazd IV. Khusrú II.	3, 4 ³ , 9, 10, 12 ³ , 13. 25 ² , 27 ³ , 28 ³ , 29 ² , 31 ⁴ , 32, 34, 35 ³ , 36 ² , 37.	10 22
			— 402
21	Khusrú I. Hormazd IV. Khusrú II.	44, 1 illegible. 4, 9, 10, 12. 3, 5, 7 ³ , 14, 29 ³ , 31 ⁴ , 35.	2 4 16
			— 424
22	Khusrú I. Hormazd IV. Khusrú II.	47. 10. 2, 4 ² , 8, 10, 23, 24, 25, 27, 30, 31, 37, 1 date illegible.	1 1 13
			— 437
23	Khusrú I. Hormazd IV. Khusrú II.	31, 41, 1 illegible. 12. 3, 6, 21, 26, 27 ³ , 31 ² , 35, 36, 10, one illegible.	3 1 13
			— 454

Mint-mark.	King.	Date in regnal years.	Total.
		Brought forward,	454
No. 24	Khusrú II.	11, 14.	2
			— 456
25	Khusrú II.	12, 13.	2
			— 458
26	Khusrú II.	28, 31.	2
			— 460
27	Khusrú II.	24, 31 ² , 33, one illegible date.	5
			— 465
28	Khusrú I.	26.	1
	Khusrú II.	2, 9, 11, 35.	4
			— 470
29	Khusrú II.	11, 19, 35.	3
			— 473
30	Khusrú II.	9.	1
			— 474
31	Khusrú I.	24.	1
	Hormazd IV.	9.	1
	Khusrú II.	29, 31.	2
			— 478
32	Khusrú I.	23, 32.	2
			— 480
33	Hormazd IV.	9.	1
			— 481
34	Hormazd IV.	12 ³ .	3
			— 484
35	Khusrú I.	28.	1
			— 485
36	Khusrú I.	12.	1
			— 486
Illegi- ble.	Khusrú I.	8, 29, 45, 47.	4
Do.	Hormazd IV.	7, 10 ² , 11.	4
Do.	Khusrú II.	2, 3, 4 ² , 5 ² , 6 ² , 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 ³ , 12 ² , 14, 15, 18(?), 27, 36, 37.	28
			— 522
Do.	Khusrú I.	1 date illegible.	1
Do.	Hormazd IV.	2 dates illegible.	2
Do.	Khusrú II.	15 dates illegible.	15
			— 540
Do.	Illegible.	4, 5*, 9*.	3
			— 543
		* Probably Khusrú II.	